

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 960

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ELTN, WB, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PROPOSAL FOR JOINT S-BAHN OPERATION

REFS: (A) BERLIN 5721; (B) USBERLIN 772

1. SUMMARY: GDR PROFESSOR SEIFFERT TOOK INITIATIVE MAY 17 TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER CONVERSATION RE SENAT ROLE IN S-BAHN OPERATION. SENAT OFFICIALS ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING MATTER SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT LEGAL POSITIONS AND WILL REQUEST ALLIED PERMISSION TO CONTINUE EXPLORATORY TALS. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ INFORMED LIAISON OFFICERS THAT SECOND "INFORMAL CONVERSATION" HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH SENAT PERMISSION MAY 17 BETWEEN GERHARD KUNZE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHANCELLERY POLITICAL SECTION, AND PROSESSOR SEIFFERT OF ACADEMY FOR STATE AND LAW AT BABELSBERG. CONVERSATION COVERED MUCH THE SAME GROUND AS EARLIER SESSION (REF B), AND ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH HERZ AND KUNZE, SENAT IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING

EXPLORATORY TALKS. SENAT IS CONVINCED THAT SEIFFERT'S FEELERS HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY CONTINUING FINANCIAL LOOSSES ENTAILED IN S-BAHN OPERATION. IN THIS CONTEXT SENAT REGARDS NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ARTICLE MAY 27, REPORTING FOR FIRST TIME THAT REICHSBAHN LOSES MONEY ON S-BAHN, AS SIGNAL THAT IT WISHES TO MAKE DEAL WITH SENAT. (ND ARTICLE HAS ALSO GIVEN RISE TO SEVERAL PRESS COMMENTARIES AND STATEMENT BY CDU OPPOSITION LEADER LUMMER, CALLING ATTENTION TO DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF S-BAHN STATIONS AND ROLLING STOCK.)

3. KUNZE INFORMED MISOFF HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO SEIFFERT SENAT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING IN FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WOULD SANCTIFY ROLE OF GDR SECURITY AUTHORITIES, HAMPER LEGITIMATE ACTIVITIES OF WEST BERLIN POLICE, OR DIRECTLY ENGAGE GDR GOVERNMENT. ONLY SCHEME HE COULD ENVISAGE AS WORKING EQUITABLY WOULD BE JOINT COMPANY IN WHICH REICHSBAHN AND BVG (WEST BERLIN TRANSPORT COMPANY) WOULD PARTICIPATE. KUNZE SAID HE AND SEIFFERT HAD AGREED TO MEET AGAIN SOME TIME IN JUNE, BEFORE WHICH SENAT WOULD PUT ITS IDEAS ON PAPER AND REQUEST ALLIED PERMISSION TO PURSUE EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS.

4. AS FOOTNOTE, KUNZE SAID THAT SEIFFERT ON MAY 17 INDICATED HE WOULD DROP IDEA HE HAD ADVANCED AT FIRST MEETING TO SET UP WITH SENAT JOINT COMPANY TO PERATE TELTOW CANAL. KUNZE HAD INDICATED TO SEIFFERT THIS MADE LITTLE SENSE WHEN ONLY SMALL PORTION OF 30- ODD KILOMETERS OF CANAL WAS LOCATED IN GDR; SEIFFERT, HE SAID, HAD RESEARCHED PUBLIC COURT DOCUMENTS ON CANAL ORGANIZATION AND APPARENTLY HAD CONCLUDED GDR WOULD HAVE WEAK CASE FOR ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE ORGANIZATION OF TELTOW CANAL COMPANY. GEORGE

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